



AIR POLLUTION

SUMMARY

Despite improvements, New Jersey still suffers from some of the country's worst air pollution. According to a 2017 American Lung Association (ALA) report, the New York-Newark metro area is among the "25 most polluted cities" for ozone and fine particulates. Both cause respiratory illnesses, cancer, cardiovascular disease, stroke, premature death and adverse pregnancy outcomes. While all New Jerseyans suffer from dirty air, communities of color and low-income communities are more highly impacted as they are more likely to live near ports, industries and high-volume traffic corridors.

New Jersey's air pollution comes in two primary forms – ozone also referred to as "smog" and particulate matter (PM) commonly known as soot. Ozone is a powerful lung irritant formed near ground level "when pollutants are emitted by cars, power plants, industrial boilers, refineries, chemical plants, and other sources react chemically in the presence of sunlight." Eleven NJ counties received an "F" by the ALA for their high ozone concentrations.

Particulate matter (PM) is also a major public health threat. It is emitted by automobiles, trucks, locomotives, ships, tug boats and cargo handling equipment at our ports, as well as commercial and industrial facilities. Particles less than 2.5 micrometers, (PM2.5) can lodge deeply in the lungs with even smaller "ultrafine" particulates having the ability to enter the bloodstream causing even greater harm.

Many of the steps to reduce ozone pollution will also result in a reduction of PM2.5, nitrogen oxides (NOx) and other criteria and co-pollutants making the recommendations described below all the more urgent, especially in communities already overburdened by the adverse impacts of air pollution on their health and quality of life.

Air pollution impacts all New Jerseyans and vulnerable communities suffer heavily.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. MEET FEDERAL OZONE STANDARDS

New Jersey is virtually the only state where at least a portion of every county is in non-attainment of federal ozone standards. The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) should take action to meet the current federal ozone standard of 75 parts per billion (ppb) or better by:

- aggressively implementing plans to increase the number of electric vehicles and charging stations
- retrofitting and/or replacing diesel trucks with 2010 or better engines
- selecting low-zero emission options for off-road construction equipment, cargo handling equipment, and short haul trucks, all of which have long lifespans.

2. SET NEW DIESEL PM REDUCTION GOALS AND PRACTICES

New Jersey should promptly review and adopt wherever possible California's freight related emission reduction programs for truck, bus and locomotive, commercial harbor craft and cargo handling equipment along the entire logistics supply chain – i.e. at ports, inter-model rail yards, and warehouses where diesel pollution levels are concentrated and exposures are high. Specific policies include:

- establish an ambient fine PM air quality goal for urban areas of 10.0 µg/m³ (micrograms per cubic meter), as well as take specific actions designed to achieve this goal.
- require the use of approved “capture and control” requirements for auxiliary diesel engines operated on ocean-going vessels at-berth when “shore power”(electric plug in) not available.
- require diesel-fueled transport refrigeration units (TRU) and TRU generator sets to convert to low and zero emission options, especially at facilities where TRUs operate or idle for long periods of time such as ports, warehouses, and rest stops.
- increase enforcement of state anti-idling rules and mandate auto-shutoffs for diesel vehicles and equipment.

3. LOCAL AIR MONITORING

Install local ground level air monitoring stations in environmental justice communities to track trends in air pollution in these hot spot locations and work with community-based organizations and municipalities to implement community air monitoring efforts to collect data and develop solutions.

RECOMMENDATIONS DEVELOPED BY AND WITH THE
[COALITION FOR HEALTHY PORTS](#)

WE WANT
CLEAN AIR &
HEALTHY COMMUNITIES